



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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VB

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
09/109,082	07/02/98	MELKI	J 2121-140P

002292 HM12/0410
BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH
P O BOX 747
FALLS CHURCH VA 22040-0747

EXAMINER

HAYES, R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1644

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DATE MAILED:

04/10/00

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks



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SERIAL NUMBER	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED APPLICANT	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.

EXAMINER	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
	10

DATE MAILED:

Please find below a communication from the EXAMINER in charge of this application.

Commissioner of Patents

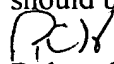
The reply filed on 1/18/00 is not fully responsive to the prior Office action because of the following omission(s) or matter(s): Sequence, ACACTATCAACTTAATTTCTGATCA, of original claim 16 still has no SEQ ID NO, because it was improperly amended in Amdt. B, filed 7/2/98, because bracketing or underlining should have been used to indicate amendments or changes in the claims as provided in 37 CFR 1.121(a)(2)(ii). In other words, even though this may constitute a "poor quality" error in photocopying the specification, a proper amendment of the claims is still required to obviate this requirement to comply with the SEQUENCE RULES, as previously made of record. Again, an amendment of the claims back to specific sets of paired primers would further obviate any subsequent restriction requirement, as it relates to an election of species from the nearly infinite random combination of primers now recited in claim 16.

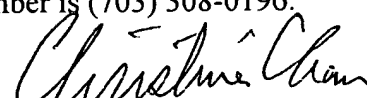
Since the above-mentioned reply appears to be *bona fide*, applicant is given **ONE (1) MONTH or THIRTY (30) DAYS** from the mailing date of this notice, whichever is longer, within which to supply the omission or correction in order to avoid abandonment.
EXTENSIONS OF THIS TIME PERIOD MAY BE GRANTED UNDER 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to examiner Robert Hayes whose telephone number is (703) 305-3132. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christina Chan, can be reached on (703) 308-3973. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 308-4242.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.


Robert C. Hayes, Ph.D.
April 10, 2000


CHRISTINA Y. CHAN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
GROUP 1800 / 640